

KEITH SEARLE IS BACK AFTER 5 MONTHS

By **STUART EARP** Wycombe Wanderers 1, Chesham United 1

KEITH SEARLE, Wycombe Wanderers' centre forward, played his first game for the club since November 17 when he came on as substitute for the final 15 minutes of Wednesday night's drawn Premier Midweek Floodlight League encounter against Chesham at Loakes Park.

Snapped knee ligaments have kept Keith out of the game since Wycombe met Walthamstow Avenue. Hereceived the biggest cheer of the night when replacing Dylan Evans in the 75th minute and produced one memorable moment in the match that almost led to the winning goal for Wycombe.

He took several hard knocks too, from Les Burgess the Chesham centre half, but seemed to come through it well, although it is doubtful whether he is ready for a full league game just yet.

Another player who hasn't donned a Wycombe shirt for a long time is Ian Rundle, who played throughout the match at centre back alongside Dave Bullock. "Yan" turned in his usual hard working performance of the past but somewhat blotted, his copybook by giving United their goal from the penalty spot.

CHANGES

As expected, Wanderers made several changes to the side that won at Hayes on Monday night.

Missing were Larry Pritchard, Terry Reardon and Steve Perrin — all in line for tonight's (Friday) Amateur International against Scotland at Coventry. John Maskell was preferred to Kevin Raine in goal but Graham Mackenzie replaced Pritchard and Price came in for Perrin.

Wycombe, second from bottom in the P.M.F.L., needed points to boost them up the table and could have secured victory in the first half. In only the fourth minute Burgess headed off the line from Paul Birdseye but the full back should have made sure instead of lobbing his shot.

Forcing five corners in quick succession Wanderers maintained their early pressure and were unlucky again when Evans sent in a neat header only to see Ken Gregory head off the line. Early on Wycombe produced some neat football, playing the ball along the ground and finding

each other well. Chesham allowed their opponents too much time and space and saw little of the ball in the first quarter.

In the 14th minute, however, they too received their share of bad luck when Alf Cameron produced a superb shot out of the blue. Latching onto a loose ball outside the area he crashed in a dipping drive over Maskell's head but the ball crashed against the crossbar. Ten minutes later they went ahead.

Phil Waller, United's most dangerous forward, beat Birdseye and sprinted into the box. Rundle, racing across to blot out the danger, timed his tackle too late and sent Waller sprawling. There were no protests about the referee's penalty decision and Gordon Taylor coolly sent Maskell the wrong way from the spot.

The breakthrough did Chesham the world of good and,

tightening the game considerably, they began to dictate events. Taking a leaf out of Wycombe's book, they strung some attractive movements together.

But with Tony Horseman a constant danger upfront Wycombe were always threatening. Unfortunately "Bodger" lacked support from Dylan Evans and Tony Price. Evans struggled to get into top gear while Price was out of the game for long periods and tended to hold on to the ball too long when it did come his way.

Chesham 'keeper Laurie Cole did well to tip Evans' header over the crossbar two minutes before the break and from the corner Dylan's luck was out again as Summerling hacked his effort off the line after Cole had parried the ball.

Mackenzie, who faded after a bright start to the second half, sent in one of the best shots of

the night in the 53rd minute. Outside the area he let fly with a fierce drive that Cole did well to turn round the upright. Then, four minutes later, Wycombe pulled back to 1-1.

HOLIFIELD SCORES

Birdseye laid on the goal with a clever free kick from outside the visitors' penalty area. Placing the ball through the defence, he found Horseman in enough space to turn in a shot which Cole pushed as far as Holfield. Mick made no mistake from close range. Soon afterwards Birdseye varied another free kick by curling a shot narrowly over the crossbar.

Mackenzie and Waller exchanged shots at either end before Keith Mead came on for Price in the 69th minute. Holfield switched upfront with Mead slotting into midfield. Chesham replied by bringing on Chris Wilkins for Bernie Mapp.

Formerly with Princes Risborough and Aylesbury, Wilkins produced some nice touches.

There was a big round of applause when Searle appeared from the bench in the 74th minute but Chesham almost regained their lead seconds later when Grimmond backheaded a long free kick, catching Maskell off his line. The 'keeper, however, saved the day by arching back and palming the ball aside.

Then, with only seconds remaining, Searle almost completed a story book return when he timed a perfect ball through to Holfield, leaving him clear of a square defence. But after beating Cole, Mick drove the ball hard into the side netting from a narrow angle.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Birdseye, I. Rundle, D. Bullock, R. Grant, P. Wood, G. Mackenzie, M. Holfield; A. Horseman, D. Evans (sub K. Searle 74 mins), A. Price (sub K. Mead 69 mins).

CHESHAM: L. Cole; K. Gregory, D. Le Sage, L. Burgess, D. Summerling; G. Taylor, A. Cameron, B. Mapp (sub C. Wilkins 72 mins); K. Beaven, R. Grimmond, P. Waller; Sub D. Mitchell (not used).

Referee: P.J. Bradbury (Slough). **Half time:** 0-1. **Goalscorers:** Chesham — Taylor pen (24), Wycombe — Holfield (57).

Total attendance: 380.

PREMIER MIDWEEK FLOODLIGHT LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chesham	8	3	2	3	14	11	10
Barnbury	5	3	0	1	10	4	8
Marlow	6	3	1	2	11	12	9
M head	6	1	3	2	6	2	6
Wycombe	4	1	2	1	7	8	4
Wokham	7	1	2	4	5	12	4